

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /070 W

-----231532Z 096976 /45

R 231035Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8567

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

S E C R E T BANGUI 0808

YAOUNDE FOR RDO/Y

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CT

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CAE

1. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE, EMPEROR BOKASSA RECENTLY DIRECTED HIS MINISTERS TO PAY GREATER ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE BELIEVED PRESIDENT CARTER WAS VERY SERIOUS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT HE WANTED NO PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA. THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE WAS TOLD TO APPLY THE LAW AND TO USE THE COURT SYSTEM TO INSURE DUE PROCESS. AS A RESULT, SOME CENTRAL AFRICANS WERE RELEASED WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED WITHOUT TRIAL FOR SPEAKING DEROGATORILY OF THE EMPEROR.

2. COMMENT: THIS REPORT OF AN EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION REINFORCES A GENERAL FEELING HERE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IS NOW SOMEWHAT LESS ARBITRARY THAN IT WAS BEFORE THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EMPIRE. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD FOR EXAMPLE THAT BEFORE THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS DECEMBER 6, THE BANGUI JAIL CONTAINED A NUMBER OF

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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHERS DETAINED FOR CRITICISING BOKASSA. NOW, ACCORDING TO ONE LOCAL LAWYER, ALTHOUGH THE JAIL IS AGAIN FULL, THERE ARE FEWER SUCH "POLITICIAN" PRISONERS. HOWEVER, THE SYSTEM ITSELF HAS NOT CHANGED IN THAT CRIMES AGAINST THE STATE ARE STILL THE PROVINCE OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL, WHERE THE ACCUSED IS NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL. QUANTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, CT, (BOKASSA I)
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